

Serial No.: 10/684,417
Docket No.: 102-1001
Amendment after Final dated February 23, 2009
Reply to the Office Action of November 26, 2008

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on November 26, 2008, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 24, and 25 have been allowed. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 10-23, and 26-27 without prejudice or disclaimer and without addressing further the merits of the cited prior art. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 24, and 25 remain pending in the application, and as such, given the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Entry of this Amendment After Final is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the claim amendments: (a) place this application in condition for allowance (in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter), (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution as indicated in the Final Office Action), (c) present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal (should an appeal be necessary), and (d) are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Final Office Action.

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below. If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

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